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including International UFO Reporter!

FRONTIERS of SCIENCE

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ANCIENT MAN IN NORTH AMERICA

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Sightings and Encounters

INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER

A Special Note From Allan Hendry

With this installment of the International UFO Reporter, I complete nearly five years as CUFOS's Chief Investigator and IUR's Editor. The Center's financial status precludes salaried employees at this time, and I will have to turn my attention to another full-time occupation. Dr. Hynek will serve as the Contributing Editor beginning with the next issue.

It has been my greatest pleasure to research and write IUR – even typeset, design, layout and illustrate previous issues – since that first issue in November 1976. I plan to continue writing in scientific fields, so our paths will cross again.

Best Wishes,

Allan Hendry

U.S. Sightings

UFO Mini-Flap in Southern Indiana

At a time when UFO activity has generally diminished throughout the nation, Jerry Sievers, an Indiana section director for MUFON, has his hands full. From early September 1980 through January of this year, UFO investigators from Terre Haute to Vincennes say they've received Nocturnal Light reports on a nightly basis. Even more remarkable, are reports of exotic sightings not appearing elsewhere . . . from divebombing triangles to policemen witnessing CE III's!

According to Sievers, it all began with an article in the Washington (Indiana) *Times Herald*. It related the September sighting of an oblong form with off-white lights running down its length by Daviess County Sheriff's Deputy Alan Evans with Dep. Steve Riney. Neither wing lights nor tail lights could be seen through binoculars. Then on September 26 at 4:30 in the morning, Susan Southerland, Debbie Riley and Kim Conolty, all nineteen-years old, spotted a "streetlight"-shaped light source slightly above the treetops. As they focused their attention on it, it started to move toward them. Even after the car turned, the light stayed on their left side. Scared, the women drove to the Washington police station and asked Officers Tim Roark and Don Grannon to look at it through binoculars. The officers were convinced the light was something unusual.

These humble beginnings started a deluge of daily reports. One of the more bizarre claims was made by a local deputy who wouldn't even let the MUFON interviewer record his name or location on the forms.

On October 15, the deputy was driving on a Knox County road. He stopped at 11:30 p.m. to stretch his legs. Out of the clear eastern sky came a black triangular form, big as a "house" and ten times the angular size of a moon in the sky. The form was estimated to be 250 feet away and 200 feet up at its closest, yet no noise could be heard. Five figures were visible through the long window on one facet of the triangle. They were visible only from the waist up, but seemed to be five-feet-tall with no clothes on. Large slanted eyes, white skin and a straight line mouth were discernible on their elongated heads. The deputy thought he saw fear in their unblinking eyes and tried to "telepathically" assure

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

A "UFO" is any anomalous aerial phenomenon whose appearance and/or behavior cannot be ascribed to conventional, natural or man-made sources after study by analysts who possess technical qualifications the original witness(es) may lack.

Abbreviations used in this section follow six categories of UFO reports developed by Dr. J. Allen Hynek:

NL: Nocturnal Light. Any distant anomalous source (usually illuminated) seen in the night sky.

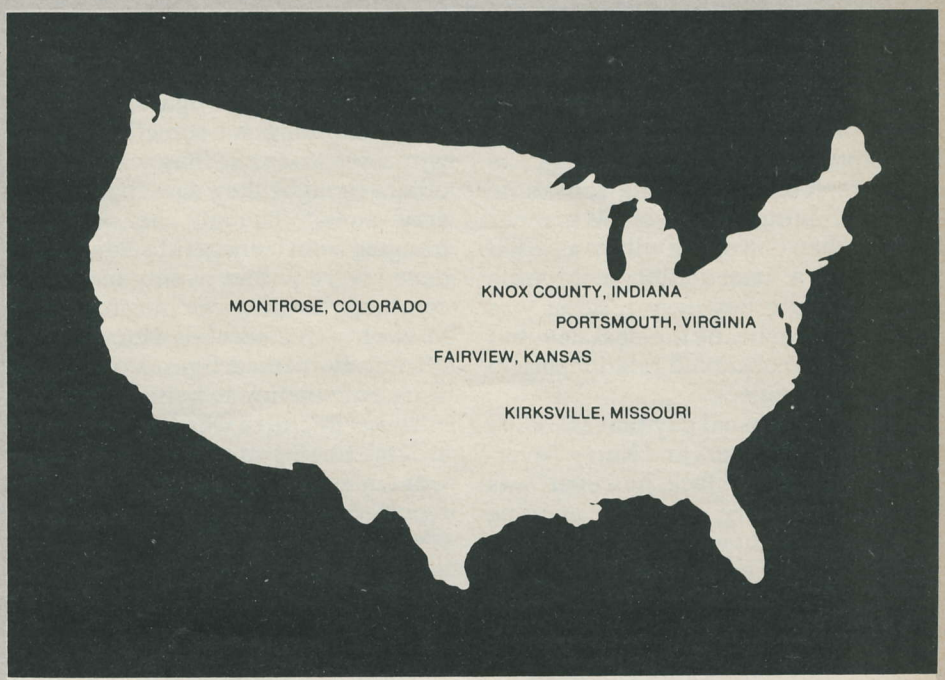
DD: Daylight Disc. Any distant objects (often disc-shaped) seen under daylight conditions.

RV: Radar/Visual. UFOs seen simultaneously by vision and radar; good agreement between the two is essential.

CE I: Close Encounter of the First Kind. UFO seen within five hundred feet.

CE II: Close Encounter of the Second Kind. CE I that influences the environment, including physical traces, physiological effects and electromagnetic interferences.

CE III: Close Encounters of the Third Kind. CE I or II associated with creatures ("UFOnauts").



Map shows areas of UFO activity covered in this issue.

them, "don't be afraid." The long-necked UFOnauts responded telepathically, asking him (brace yourself), "Why do you hate the Iranians?"

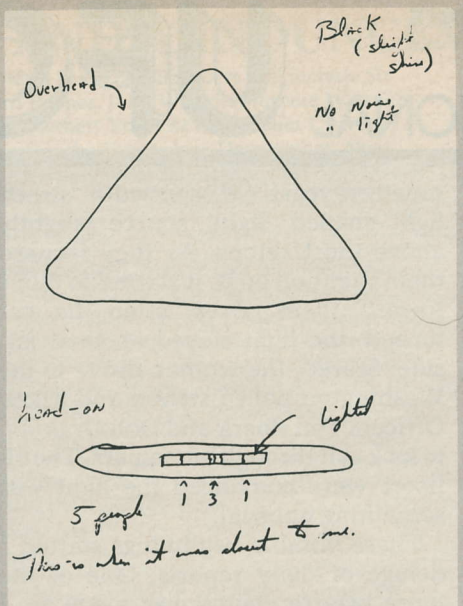
The deputy said he didn't answer. The UFO drew closer, then flew away until it faded into the darkness of the northeast. During the sighting, the officer's police radio (FM, from 155-250 MHz) displayed intermittent interference, which disappeared when the UFO left. Similarly, the 1978 Pontiac V-8 police car's engine and lights pulsated. Dogs – which he did not see – barked and howled in the neighborhood.

As for the frightened deputy, symptoms noted during the event included light-headedness, sluggishness and watery eyes. He continued to feel sluggish with a headache afterwards. His biggest fear: losing his job if people learn of his experience.

Another unusual claim was made by a group of people two weeks earlier. It must be noted that this group went out with the intention of looking for a UFO in an area known as "Lucky Point" near Monroe City in Knox County. If their claim is true, they got more than they bargained for! Appearing high in the partly cloudy eastern sky was a dark triangle, possibly surrounded by a slight glow. The triangle, "large as a house" and certainly as big as a full moon, came overhead and a voice announced, "the time is now" (or "near" or "here," depending on the witness interviewed). The UFO changed direction slightly and accelerated toward the northwest. Total duration: one half to two minutes.

Symptoms reported during the event included a "tingling sensation" and a humming noise over FM scanner radios when one of the witnesses tried to contact a base station in Monroe City. A white powdery residue was present on soybeans the next day, but there was no observed relationship to the dark triangle.

The most unusual day that MUFON investigators Sievers and Kerry Teverbaugh have had to face, however, was certainly January 15. The opening event of the night was a series of five to six closely-spaced "booms" heard over a five-mile range. The news department of Teverbaugh's television station (where he is the weatherman) failed to locate a cause for the noise within Terre Haute, which led to speculation about sonic booms.



Drawing by a Knox County deputy who claims to have spoken with humanoids.

At 9:30 p.m., the station started taking calls about a string of dozens of lights in the night sky. These lights were stationary for a brief time, then disappeared by shooting straight up, according to callers.

Perhaps because the weatherman's interest in UFOs in known, Teverbaugh found himself the target for several calls from different people living in Prairieton, describing the most unusual sight yet: small "Oriental" humanoids. Teverbaugh interviewed three sets of witnesses in person, each telling of driving their cars past two fields, separated by a quarter-mile on the same road. There, "eleven" (or "seven," depending on the claimant) of these four-foot-tall figures could be seen "searching" for something. Some witnesses said that they were naked; others thought they saw "tight-fitting gray suits." Though the witnesses (ranging from teenagers to elderly residents) were within twenty feet of the creatures, usually watching for fifteen to twenty-five seconds before racing off, the humanoid figures offered no apparent reaction to being viewed.

Those creatures were allegedly seen around 10:15 p.m. At 10:30 p.m., two women in a different area of town reported a fleeting glimpse of a six-to seven-foot-tall creature with fur and large, luminous red eyes which they interpreted to be "Bigfoot"!

At the time of this writing, investigations by the local MUFON researchers are still in a preliminary state. As Jerry Sievers notes, "everything I've ever *read* about in the UFO literature is being reported in my own area now!"

Radar-Visual Light Form Seen by Independent Witnesses

TYPE: RV
DATE: November 18, 1980
TIME: approximately 7:30 to 11 p.m.
DURATION: four hours
WITNESSES: "hundreds," reported independently
PLACE: a 200-mile stretch of 22 cities, from Edina, Missouri westward to Fairview, Kansas

Readers of the February 3, 1981 *National Enquirer* were told of a formation of lights seen by many people living in northern Missouri and northeastern Kansas. Information supplied to CUFOS by *Enquirer* reporter Bob Pratt included interviews with a large number of witnesses.

Because the UFO was in the area for so long, travelling so slowly, people were alerted to go out and report via CB-radio, home police scanners, even KTTN in Trenton which opened two phone lines to the public. Airport operator David Overstreet in Kirksville, Missouri said "I had a lot of hysterical people calling up wanting me to explain what it was." That city's police department received twenty-five calls. Two key witnesses – interviewed by IUR – included a man who actually photographed the formation and a radar technician who saw the UFO visually and on a radar screen.

The appearance of the UFO is hardly remarkable. Indeed, many witnesses said they thought they were watching an airplane, a helicopter or a "refueling exercise." The basic description portrayed a triangular form with two bright headlights. Variations on the shape invoked "diamond," "kite" and "cigar" shapes, sometimes with a dome on top. Descriptions of light arrangement varied, too: "several lights in the front," "cabin lights," "red light in the middle bottom hanging down," "lights (shading) one side of the dome."

Rick Hull, the twenty-year old photographer from Trenton, said that only one of his eight attempts at shooting the lights worked. In the four separate passes he and a friend witnessed from 8:15 to 11 p.m. in Trenton, the underside showed a diamond-shaped array of four white lights with a steady red

beacon in the middle. There were two strong "headlights" and an apparent dome with seven green lights around it. These seven lights, arranged in a curve, were the only lights successfully filmed. Hull told IUR that they look blurred due to motion (on ASA 125 film, at 1/30th second through a 45mm, F/2 lens, wide open). These "dome" lights, a small feature of the overall light formation, occupied as much area on his 35mm negative as did the moon in two other shots. That proves widespread claims of large angular size were quite valid. "If it was an airplane," noted Roger Bennett of Fairview, Kansas, "it would have had to have been a 747 coming in at about 2,000 feet to be that big."

The seemingly huge size and low altitude of this light formation were what really impressed witnesses. Yet while most people provided estimates of "300 to 400 feet" up, a Trenton, Missouri witness placed it at "1000 to 1500 feet." Missouri Highway Patrolman Bob Lober guessed 1500 to 1800 feet in Edinburg, not far from the Trenton witnesses. Bennett in Fairview said that the UFO disappeared *above* clouds in the west.

The absence of noise also came as a surprise to many. When people did hear sound, it was always reported as a "jet engine" rumble that wasn't very loud. Photographer Hull said the noise couldn't be heard until the lights passed beyond his overhead view.

The motion of the lights was decidedly "laidback," with witness estimates of twenty-five to forty-five miles per hour. The UFO also changed directions frequently, giving many witnesses more than one look at the lights. The directions noted were almost always eastbound or westbound. The last time Rick Hull saw the lights, however, they turned southbound out of sight. Hull, like others, also stated that he saw the UFO hover for five to ten minutes.

That slow speed was confirmed by radar technician Franklin West, located at the Sublette remote radar station near Kirksville. This station is a branch of the Kansas City Air Route Traffic Control Center. West doesn't normally monitor the screens, but checked them when local people told him about the sightings. He found a radar target located in the same direction and distance from his station. West said that it passed through the Kirksville area four or five times in a two to three hour period. He tracked it once, estimating its speed at forty-five m.p.h. The target had no transponder beacon, however, showing up only as a "raw" return. Thus, he could not identify it or establish its altitude.

One unusual claim about the UFO's motion came from a patrolman who saw the lights change from westbound to eastbound motion too abruptly (and silently) for aircraft. This was viewed from Kirksville. The most peculiar claim was made in Fairview, Kansas, where witnesses saw a half dozen lights emanate from the main array. Some went straight out, some north, some south.

IUR Follow-up

Hundreds of witnesses, large angular size, radar confirmation, photographic evidence . . . it sounds too good to be true. Certainly, something *was* flying up there but was it justifiably a UFO? While the lights progressed slowly over the cities of northern Missouri, the Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) in Olathe, Kansas would have been the final arbiter in identifying them. Yet checks by IUR showed that neither the radar technician (not a controller himself), nor the controller at the Kirksville airport nor the Columbia Flight Service Station contacted the ARTCC that night to find out for themselves.

When IUR had the military liaison at the Olathe ARTCC check the logs for that night, nothing unusual was noted. The only way something would have been logged, he asserted, was if someone *had* altered the ARTCC to the UFO's presence.

Was the "UFO" a misidentified aircraft? Many of the reported "symptoms" seem like observations of a refueling exercise . . . the large array of lights, larger looking than a single plane, yet acting in unison; the splitting up of the lights at 11 p.m. when the last observation was made, due to the uncoupling of refueling planes; the observation by one individual that a red light seemed to be hanging lower than the rest of the array. The "low jet rumble" may be a clue that the light array was actually much higher than most people thought. Indeed, the air controller, Overstreet, considered this himself as he watched it go over the Kirksville airport (which has no radar of its own). The clincher came, however, when Overstreet noted that a pilot landed that night, and said he recognized the "UFO" to be a refueling tanker with jets following it!

Exploring this prospect further, IUR learned that there is an established refueling track known as "AR318" that runs in a straight line from southern Kirksville to northeast Kansas (just south of Pawnee City, Nebraska). Unfortunately, it was too late for the ARTCC to determine who was flying there in November, almost three months prior to IUR's call. Similarly, the 126th Air Refueling Wing in Chicago which logs such air traffic for that corridor also said too much time had passed for any record of flights other than their own. So IUR resorted to calling several air bases suggested by the military as possible users of AR318. With luck, it was learned that Altus Air Force Base, in Altus, Oklahoma, flew a huge C-5A that night behind a KC-135 tanker from Grissom Air Force Base in Peru, Indiana. The flight began at the western end of the track at 8 p.m., local time.

Hundreds of witnesses, radar confirmation. Something was flying up there. But was it a UFO?

The two planes flew in tandem at 20,000 feet at an indicated air speed of 250 knots. After flying back and forth over the northern Missouri cities, turning 180° over Kirksville just as the police officer reported, the coupled planes departed at the western end in Kansas, flying their separate ways. The departure time at 11 p.m. in Kansas conforms well to the time lights were observed to split up in Fairview.

There are some questionable aspects of this seeming solution:

- sighting reports started as early as 7:30 p.m. (unless people were watching the arrival of the separate planes or another exercise . . . it's too late to tell).
- the non-transponding target seen on radar by the technician doing 45 m.p.h. (unless it was an unrelated target. The KC-135 was transponding, the C-5A, while refueling, was not).
- the photograph shows a sharply-arched crescent of six

or seven lights – it is uncertain how the lighting configuration of either plane could have presented this crescent.

- the Fairview witnesses saw several lights split up from the main lights, but only one plane broke off from the tanker.

The moral of the story: CUFOS was lucky to learn of the refueling exercise given the three-month lapse in obtaining details of the event. Sightings *must* be investigated while they are fresh, and the right agencies (e.g., the ARTCC) must be approached. Partially-illuminated "Nocturnal Light" candidates are always the most vulnerable "UFOs" for man-made or natural solutions.

Daylight Disc in Colorado

TYPE: DD
DATE: November 2, 1980
TIME: 12:42 p.m.
DURATION: 35 seconds
WITNESSES: 2
PLACE: Montrose, Colorado

The husband and wife who reported this sighting are self-employed and in their mid-thirties. They have not discussed it with anyone in their small hometown, and desire anonymity.

As they drove westbound on highway 50 some 20 miles east of town, the wife noticed a silver oblong form in the distance against a clear blue sky. Twenty-five seconds later, as the highway started to curve and the form was seen against a background of mesa, the witness called her husband's attention to it. He stopped the car and joined her in watching it for the remaining ten seconds it was visible. The couple saw the form bank like an aircraft to the right some 30° to 45°. What had been an "oblong" side view gave way to a look at an oval-shaped underside. The husband guessed it to be forty feet in actual size, and a "dime at arm's length" in angular size. His wife guessed it to be smaller than the sun in angular size, a considerably smaller figure. According to the woman, the oval disappeared in a "half-second" by shooting up over the top of the mesa toward the northeast.

Dark Disk in Virginia

TYPE: NL
DATE: September 9, 1980
TIME: 8-8:30 p.m.
DURATION: 10 minutes
WITNESSES: 2
PLACE: Portsmouth, VA

Barbara Kaisler, a forty-two-year old housewife, was driving home when her nine-year old daughter called her attention to a peculiar sight in the dusky, partly cloudy sky: a dark, but sharply-defined "frisbee." Slightly smaller in angular extent than a full moon would be, the disk appeared to be some five to six stories higher than the rooftops in the north.

Seen from their moving car, the disk never stopped rising up. No noise was audible. When they stopped at an intersection, the disk could be seen to tumble end-over-end, now climbing at a 30° angle. Their last view of the form was its disappearance into the clouds in the northeast. Mrs. Kaisler noted that the speed of the disk seemed steady.

This is the first time she has seen anything like this. No other reports are known at this time.

Foreign Forum

Note: The editors cannot exert the same "first-hand" control over foreign cases as domestic ones. It is certainly of value, at least, to compare the reported characteristics of the phenomenon abroad as in the United States. **– A.H.**

Chinese UFO Study

According to the official Xinhua News Agency, Chinese newspapers now carry accounts of UFO sightings. Indeed, the *Peking Evening News* recently carried a UFO photograph reputed to be the first taken in China. It was seen by three tourists camping out in mountainous Cangping County near the Great Wall. The photo reportedly looks like three stars in an inverted "T" shape with a surrounding halo of light. The incident occurred August 24 of last year. Newspapers in Tianjin also have reported UFO signtings off the coast. Such press accounts mark the end of years of silence on this subject in China. The press claims that there are twenty-four provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions worth of UFOphiles, studying the subject from the viewpoints of physics, astronomy, technology, philosophy and psychology.

Three hundred Chinese ufologists have organized the first academic society of its kind in China. Headquartered in Wuhan in central China, the organization is headed by a twenty-six-year old student named Leping in the astrophysics department of Wuhan University. Since its founding in May, the group has sponsored discussions and observations of UFOs. It has a research journal called *UFO Exploration*, and branches in Peking, Shanghai, and the provinces of Guangdong, Sichuan, Shanxi, Shaanxi, Hubei and Guangxi.

Physical Trace in Australia

TYPE: CE II
DATE: September 30, 1980
TIME: 1 a.m.
DURATION: 50 minutes
WITNESSES: 1
PLACE: 19 km. west of Sale, Victoria, Australia
SOURCE: Paul Norman

George Blackwell, the stationhand of "White Acres," a 500-acre cattle grazing property, was awakened by the panicky noises of a horse and cattle and an unusual whistling sound. Climbing the top porch rail to get a good look at the horse, he saw a bell-shaped object some 550 feet away, only 6 feet above the ground. As it cleared the trees, he realized that it wasn't a crashing plane. He estimated it to be twenty-six feet long and ten feet high. The body of the bell was orange with a white dome on top. Slowly revolving around the bell were blue and orange lights, each seven inches in diameter and ten feet apart.

Flying in a straight line over fences, it briefly hovered over a concrete water tank and touched down on the ground some fifty feet from it.

Blackwell got dressed and drove on his motorbike toward the UFO, a quarter-mile away. Stopping by a gate to open it, the nervous witness watched the UFO sit on the ground for ten minutes. Then it started to lift off. Blackwell drove to within fifty yards of the bell. Its noise increased in pitch to an ear-splitting level. He felt a blast of heat. Because the bike was on an upward slope, its headlight lit up the UFO's underside. He saw a large circular rim, receding in width as the craft rose. Then the suction and noise reduced, with stones and cow pads falling from the UFO's bottom. It slowly gained height and disappeared from view in the east.

The witness was shaken and reported having a headache by 11 a.m. after a night of difficulty in sleeping. A physical trace was found at the landing site: a thirty-foot diameter circle, fourteen inches wide. The grass, cape weed and clover were brown by apparent poisoning, not burning. Inside the ring, the grass was normal except for six, evenly-spaced half spokes of browned vegetation radiating toward the center. Radiation and magnetic measurements were normal.

The witness and property owner were amazed to find the 10,000-gallon water tank nearly empty. Cattle cannot be forced to go near the circle on the ground. The allegedly uprooted rocks and cow pads formed a straight line eastward from the trace.

The duration of this event was based on the times noted by Blackwell on a clock at the beginning and end of the incident. Twenty minutes of time seem to be missing from the account. The only other *possible* witness was young Kelly Postle some four kilometers away. At 12:12 a.m., she saw a pink ball of fire from her bedroom window moving slowly in the west.

The sighting has been reported to the RAAF base at Sale. Flight Lieutenant Philip of that base was named as the investigator.

UFO Newsfront

Persinger's "Earthquake Lights" . . . Ho-Hum

Quickly, who remembers the news media's "answer to the UFO riddle" in 1978? Answer: insects flying through electrical discharges in the atmosphere, causing the swarms to glow. Drs. Callahan and Mankin, who proposed the scheme as a way to explain many sightings detailed in Frank Salisbury's book, *The Utah UFO Display,* were quick to point out that their solution could only account for *some* UFO sightings, not all. This wasn't mentioned by newspapers, which treated the "scientific judgment" as a ufological panacea. "Close Encounter? It's Only Moths" read one headline.

Viewers of the ABC News *20-20* show broadcast on February 12 saw electric fields invoked again, this time in the form of Dr. Michael Persinger's "earthquake light" scheme for UFOs. Certainly, these luminous balls of light have long been observed as precursors to earthquake activity around the world, even photographed. The presumed mechanism for such lights involves quartz-bearing granite being flexed by seismic stresses and releasing outbursts of piezoelectric energy. Persinger has extended the idea of this mechanism to sub-earthquake stresses, suggesting that routine fault line activity alone would be adequate to generate luminous aerial forms to explain many UFO sightings.

To illustrate this effect, ABC filmed the experiments of Dr. Brian Brady, a scientist with the U.S. Bureau of Mines. By crushing cylinders of quartz-bearing granite, glowing sparks were generated which lasted one-tenth of a second. Extrapolation from this small-scale lab experiment to large-scale geophysical processes completed the "Persinger-Brady" hypothesis.

Any research into ill-understood natural processes spurred by UFO sightings is a big boost for this subject. Problems arise, though, when such a limited solution is freely prescribed for all manners of sightings across the globe. Any nature-based UFO solution runs smack into some hopeless obstacles: why have UFOs been seen in large numbers only since 1947? Brady drew a picture of a "domed disc" shape that a piezoelectric form would theoretically adopt if it rotated rapidly. If so, these would have been reported throughout human history with equal frequency . . . not just in the last thirty years! Also, why would such forms peak worldwide in evening hours? Seismic activity does not shun daylight.

In the case of electromagnetic interference effects with vehicles, researcher Mark Rodeghier notes that the severity of claimed interference effects does not follow a natural "inverse-square" law with increasing UFO distance. Furthermore, UFO reports are present practically everywhere across the globe. They are *not* restricted to regions of geological turmoil. Besides, "earthquake lights" were observed and reported long before the post-war UFO phenomenon. They were *called* "earthquake lights," and certainly did not inspire a UFO concept in the past.

More problems: how can so many UFOs appear as metallic, detailed machines? Says Persinger, the energy field is stimulating the hippocampus of the human brain to see hallucinations. This premise was used to explain the Travis Walton abduction case. But where were all these hallucinations before 1947? How do multiple witnesses "hallucinate" the same UFO? How do hallucinations register on film when daylight UFOs are photographed? (I posed this latter question to the production team responsible for the *20-20* segment. Their reply: "most UFO photographs are hoaxes anyway.") Again, seismic stresses did not begin *after* World War II.

The energy field stimulates the brain to hallucinate. But where were these hallucinations before 1947?

The Val Johnson case was used as an example of a collision between the officer's patrol car and a piezoelectric "luminous display." According to the ABC show, "Val Johnson may have been extremely lucky. Brady estimated that the energy contained in a luminous display could have totally disintegrated Val and his car." For all the Close Encounters in the last thirty years (and, by rights, throughout human history), *when in blazes was a single person ever "disintegrated" by such a display*—let alone their cars? Yet the ABC show "solved" the New Zealand UFO films of New Year's Eve, 1978 in the same fashion. Faults in the center of New Zealand, they claimed, generated the lights seen over the sea. Where is the energy to sustain these forms over such a distance?

When IUR had extensive analyses performed on the damaged features of Deputy Johnson's car, the prospect of an electrically-charged phenomenon was considered. The materials testing engineers who examined the bent car antennas calculated the electrical force necessary to bend them. Theoretically, electricity would have caused arcing, which should have scorched the insect tissue splattered over the antenna shafts. This was not observed.

Nonetheless, *20-20* attributed the Val Johnson UFO to energy originating from a quartz-bearing granite layer located 800 feet beneath the earth a few miles away. Apparently, Minnesota's "seismic forces" are deemed adequate to sufficiently flex the quartz.

Therein lies the biggest catch of all.

The Persinger-Brady hypothesis implicitly predicts that a given area that has piezoelectrically generated a UFO must continue to do so routinely. The quartz bed continues to be flexed by the same seismic stresses. If the Val Johnson UFO was the product of such a piezoelectric generator, such manifestations should have occurred over and over again. For that matter, they should have been routinely observed in Marshall County for as long as people have lived there. According to the UFO data base, they haven't. Ditto for Snowflake, Arizona. Ditto for Kaikoura, New Zealand.

In view of these problems, a reasonable scientist will stake out the site of a UFO suspected to be a geophysical artifact and watch for repeatability before proffering such an easily-testable hypothesis. The show featured the Fortean group, Vestigia, engaged in such a pursuit, but they were watching for a local "spook light," not a "mainstream," high-altitude UFO. Let us hope that the Vestigians are not "totally disintegrated" in the process.

Memories of the UFO Experience – A New Study

A new book by psychologist Elizabeth Loftus called *Memory* contains a number of items of interest to anyone grappling with the substance of UFO reports:

- True memories do not exist – the mind is apparently designed to change and adapt *all* stored perceptions.
- Contrary to Freud and the electrode experiments of neurosurgeon Wilder Penfield, Loftus argues that long-term memory is not stored in a permanently undisturbed state. Electric stimulation of the brain can trigger a re-enactment of past experiences, but this approach still yields a mixture of fact and fantasy.
- The same problems apply to hypnosis and "truth serum." Hypnosis may heighten relaxation, cooperation and concentration, but it also heightens suggestibility. People can "remember" events that never occurred.
- Similarly, no one should think that "truth" drugs always prevent people from lying. Studies show that they can do it quite competently, garbling facts and inventing stories to please their questioners.

Other insights of interest:

- Memory of hearing is stronger than that of sight, touch or smell.
- Slight stress improves memory, heavy stress erodes it.
- Memory loss (frequently reported in abduction experiences) can be triggered by electrical, physical or emotional shocks. Such amnesia can be selective. In rare cases, sexual intercourse can create a state of memory loss that can last for several hours.

UFOS & Folklore

These three excerpts from recent publications should provide some food for thought for CE III theorists:

"The Hebrews of biblical times mocked baldness, but later, when scholarship came to be held in high regard, attributed loss of hair to much weighty thought and diligent study. Activity in the upper story, they felt, left no peace for the growth of foliage on the roof. Over the years, that particular myth seems to have made sense to increasing numbers of people. How, otherwise, would we have received our current image of the extraterrestrial – denizen of the galaxy and saucer pilot extraordinaire? Typically he or she displays an outsize head, bulging with weighty thoughts and as innocent of hair as a billiard ball. Indeed, the prophets of our own future tend to see us with much the same sort of appearance. All-over baldness thus bids fair to betoken superior intelligence and a presumably higher rung on the evolutionary ladder."

– *Body: The Ultimate Symbol*
by Olivia Vlahos
(1979, J. B. Lippincott)

"The fairies are as immortal as the human beings who created them. They have been known to all times and all races as far as we have records. In the second half of the twentieth century, they have held up the building of roads in Ireland that threatened their dwelling places . . . now with the first rockets we have sent them ahead of us . . . proliferating in all their recognizable manifestations: little green men; tall, wan but very beautiful humanoids . . . bodiless powers . . .

"Even the height of the UFO craze, when flying saucers were spotted every night, was anticipated in the twelfth-century chroniclers' accounts of fairies seen and met with, with names and places to back them up . . . Where the Middle Ages placed their fantasy period back in time so that anything might have been possible, now science . . . insists on a future location where everything may be possible."

– *The Erotic World of Faery*
by Maureen Duffy
(1980, Avon Discus edition)

And in the Soviet Union...

"(Ufology) is directly related to folklore; the greatest part of the reports come from the verbal testimony of witnesses . . . word of mouth stories about NLOs [the Soviet term for UFOs – Ed.] and spacemen as such . . . A "bylichka" [ancient Soviet folk story – Ed.] is a report about a concrete, real happening linked with a precise spot and defined persons. The character of a bylichka lies in the story of a meeting with the other world . . .

"The modern-day bylichkas tell of NLOs and their passengers [who] possess all the features of their antecedents [devils, pixies, and 'sylen' devils – Ed.] . . . If . . . a meeting does take place, it is usually described in the traditional manner of a bylichka. The observer suddenly has no strength to move himself from the spot. In the

Continued on page 38

Catastrophism from page 17

tation of the *past!* We see the past every clear night (mainly stars in our own galaxy) and especially far back through a powerful telescope. Cosmologies such as the physicist Dirac's which postulate a definite lawful variation of physical constants can be tested by current observations in astronomy, geology and geochemistry. For example, McElhinny *et al* set a lower limit to the possible variation in G (gravitational constant) by limits to possible expansion of the terrestrial planets and the moon. Kanasewich and Savage outlined a test of Dirac's cosmology using a comparison of radiometric dates on meteorites and terrestrial samples. All of this work so far has supported *constant* physical constants.

THE ultimate refuge of theological catastrophism is the "creation" of the universe itself, just as vitalism — the idea of a life principle independent of matter — now hides in the watchtower of consciousness. Astronomer Robert Jastrow has recently contributed to a resurgence of theological catastrophism in his book *God and the Astronomers* by claiming a concordance of the astrophysical picture of the big bang with the biblical account of creation. One could just as well appeal to the concordance of Hindu cosmology, with its much more appropriate time-scale of billions of years, to the model of an oscillating universe. Or you could make up your own myth, *ad hoc*, as you follow each twist and turn of modern astrophysics. The possibility of a closed universe is still not settled; the apparent discovery of neutrino mass throws support to such a model.

In any case, science will go on developing, as a more-or-less open body of knowledge and theory in spite of the ideological attacks of present-day theological catastrophists. □

DAVID SCHWARTZMAN is chairman of the geology and geography at Howard University. He is a Frontiers of Science *advisor.* □

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Macer-Story *from page 30*

creased psychic powers, they may have "mutated" into more evolved human beings.

Eugenia's idea that UFO experiences may be changing people – evolving them – is an important aspect of her philosophy. She believes that telepathic communication will be the next direction in man's evolution. She points out that obtaining information rapidly has always been the key to survival, whether it is information about agricultural conditions, political change or financial opportunities. Humans already have evolved to build machines capable of transmitting information speedily. The next step is simply "interlinkage" – instantaneous telepathic transfer of information across vast distances. The people of the future will "have perceptual ability more adapted to information gathering via interpersonal contact. This will involve ESP skills."

Eugenia's bent for playwriting fits in well with her belief in imminent changes and with her desire to help people get in touch with their psychic abilities. She's able to present her ideas to a wide audience – who may be more easily swayed by laughter than by pages of documented research. And, as many of us would wish to do ourselves, she is able to combine business with her beliefs. □

IUR *from page 16*

past . . . horses stopped and nothing could force them to go any further. Now the same is going on today with machines . . .

"The spacemen, as are the sylens, pixies, and other dark beings, are willing to kidnap children and adults . . . Loss of memory is a typical feature of many NLO encounters, as in the tales of meetings with creatures of mythology. Tragic results, such as nervous shock and even death or disease, following shortly after an encounter is also a characteristic of the old bylichki . . .

"This proves that the bylichka of old is still alive, not only in its gender, but also in its composition of happenings and its social character, existence and function."

– *"UFOs and Spacemen in Light of Folklore"*
by W. I. Sanarow
UFO Insight
September 1980 □